CLAIMS

1. A stable oral rinse composition, comprising:

a) from about 0.01% to about 2.5% by weight of a phenolic, said phenolic selected from the group consisting of menthol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, thymol, triclosan, and mixtures thereof;

b) from about 0.1% by weight to about 25% by weight of a cyclodextrin, said soluble cyclodextrin selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl γ-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl γ-cyclodextrin, α-cyclodextrin, methyl β-cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof;

c) up to about 25% by weight ethanol; and

d) an orally acceptable carrier.

2. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of cyclodextrin is from about 1% by weight to about 5% by weight.

3. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of ethanol is up to about 15% by weight.

4. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 1, further including up to about 4% by weight of an orally acceptable surfactant selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, or mixtures thereof.

5. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 4, wherein the amount of orally acceptable surfactant is up to about 1% by weight.

6. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 1, further including up to about 5% by weight of an orally acceptable antiplaque agent.

7. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 6, wherein the orally acceptable antiplaque agent is selected from the group consisting of cetyl pyridinium chloride, cetyl pyridinium chloride related quaternary pharmaceutically acceptable salts, chlorhexidine, zinc pharmaceutically

acceptable salts, stannous pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pharmaceutically acceptable peroxygens.

8. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 1, further including an orally acceptable anticalculus agent.

9. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 8, wherein the orally acceptable anticalculus agent includes up to about 10% by weight of a pyrophosphate pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

10. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 1, further including an orally acceptable suitable fluoride ion source sufficient to provide from about 50 ppm to about 2500 ppm fluoride.

11. A stable oral rinse composition according to claim 10, wherein the amount of the orally acceptable suitable fluoride ion source provides from about 50 ppm to about 250 ppm fluoride.

12. A dentifrice in the form of a toothpaste or tooth gel, comprising:

a) from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of a phenolic, said phenolic selected from the group consisting of menthol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, thymol, triclosan, and mixtures thereof;

b) from about 0.1% by weight to about 60% by weight of a cyclodextrin, said cyclodextrin selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl γ-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl γ-cyclodextrin, α-cyclodextrin and methyl β-cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof;

c) up to about 60% by weight of an orally acceptable dental abrasive; and

d) an orally acceptable carrier.

13. A dentifrice according to claim 12, wherein the amount of cyclodextrin is from about 5% by weight to about 30% by weight.

14. A dentifrice according to claim 12, further including up to about 4% by weight of an orally acceptable surfactant selected from the

group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, or mixtures thereof.

15. A dentifrice according to claim 14, wherein the amount of orally acceptable surfactant is from about 0.5% by weight to about 4% by weight.

16. A dentifrice according to claim 12, further including up to about 5% by weight of an orally acceptable antiplaque agent.

17. A dentifrice according to claim 16, wherein the orally acceptable antiplaque agent is selected from the group consisting of cetyl pyridinium chloride, cetyl pyridinium chloride related quaternary pharmaceutically acceptable salts, chlorhexidine, zinc pharmaceutically acceptable salts, stannous pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pharmaceutically acceptable peroxygens.

18. A dentifrice according to claim 12, further including an orally acceptable anticalculus agent.

19. A dentifrice according to claim 18, wherein the orally acceptable anticalculus agent includes up to about 10% by weight of a pyrophosphate pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

20. A dentifrice according to claim 12, wherein the amount of orally acceptable dental abrasive is from about 10% by weight to about 40% by weight.

21. A dentifrice according to claim 12, wherein the orally acceptable dental abrasive selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, calcium pyrophosphate and calcium carbonate.

22. A dentifrice according to claim 12, further including an orally acceptable suitable fluoride ion source sufficient to provide from about 50 ppm to about 2500 ppm fluoride.

23. A dentifrice according to claim 22, wherein the amount of the orally acceptable suitable fluoride ion source sufficient to provide from about 250 ppm to about 1500 ppm fluoride.

24. A stable oral rinse composition, comprising:

a) from about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight of a phenolic, said phenolic selected from the group consisting of menthol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, thymol, triclosan, and mixtures thereof;

b) from about 0.1% by weight to about 5% by weight of a cyclodextrin, said soluble cyclodextrin selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl γ-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl γ-cyclodextrin, α-cyclodextrin, methyl β-cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof;

c) up to about 15% by weight ethanol; and

d) up to about 1% by weight of an orally acceptable surfactant selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, or mixtures thereof; and

d) an orally acceptable carrier.

25. A dentifrice in the form of a toothpaste or tooth gel, comprising:

a) from about 0.01% to about 3% by weight of a phenolic, said phenolic selected from the group consisting of menthol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, thymol, triclosan, and mixtures thereof;

b) from about 0.1% by weight to about 30% by weight of a cyclodextrin, said cyclodextrin selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β-cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl γ-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl γ-cyclodextrin, α-cyclodextrin and methyl β-cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof;

c) up to about 40% by weight of an orally acceptable dental abrasive;

d) up to about 4% by weight of an orally acceptable surfactant selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, or mixtures thereof;

e) an orally acceptable suitable fluoride ion source sufficient to provide from about 250 ppm to about 1500 ppm fluoride; and

f) an orally acceptable carrier.

26. A method for retarding development of plaque on a dental surface in the oral cavity of a mammal, comprising administering to said dental surface an amount of a composition according to claim 1 effective in retarding said development of plaque.

27. A method for retarding development of plaque on a dental surface in the oral cavity of a mammal, comprising administering to said dental surface an amount of a dentifrice according to claim 12 effective in retarding said development of plaque.

28. A method of treating gingivitis, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an amount of a composition according to claim 1 effective in treating gingivitis.

29. A method of treating gingivitis, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an amount of a dentifrice according to claim 12 effective in treating gingivitis.

30. A method of treating the presence of micro-organisms in the oral cavity of a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal in need of such treatment an amount of a composition according to claim 1 effective in reducing the viable population of said micro-organisms.

31. A method of treating the presence of micro-organisms in the oral cavity of a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal in need of such treatment an amount of a dentifrice according to claim 12 effective in reducing the viable population of said micro-organisms.